

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Method for the conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases, comprising:

- a) binding the nucleic acid to a solid phase,
- b) incubating the solid phase bound nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated, yielding a deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid.
- c) optionally washing the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
- d) incubating the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated,
- e) optionally washing the deaminated and desulfonated solid phase bound nucleic acid, and
- f) optionally eluting the deaminated and desulfonated nucleic acid from the solid phase.

2. (Currently Amended) Method for the conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases comprising:

- a) incubating the nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
- b) binding the deaminated nucleic acid to a solid phase, yielding a deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid
- c) optionally washing the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
- d) incubating the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated,

- e) optionally washing the deaminated and desulfonated solid phase bound nucleic acid, and
- f) optionally eluting the deaminated and desulfonated nucleic acid from the solid phase.

3. (Currently Amended) Method for conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases comprising:

- a) binding the nucleic acid to a solid phase,
- b) incubating the solid phase bound nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated, yielding a deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
- c) optionally washing the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
- d) eluting the deaminated nucleic acid from the solid phase,
- e) incubating the deaminated nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated.

4. (Original) The method according to any of claims 1 to 3 characterized in that the solid phase is a material comprising silica or glass.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the solid phase is a glass fleece or a glass membrane.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 4 wherein the solid phase is a magnetic glass particle.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle has a mean diameter between 0.5 µm and 5 µm.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle contains a magnetic object with a diameter between 5 and 500 nm.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle contains a magnetic object with a mean diameter of 23 nm.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle is manufactured by the sol-gel method.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said sol-gel method comprises:

- a) suspending magnetic objects in a sol,
- b) hydrolyzing the sol to cover the magnetic objects with a gel,
- c) spray-drying the magnetic objects covered with a gel in a two-nozzle spray-drier, and
- d) sintering the spray-dried powder to form a glass from the gel covering the magnetic objects.

12-15. (Canceled)